



AOC Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 12

December 2008

Travel Mileage Rate Decreases

Effective January 1, 2009, the mileage rate paid to persons traveling in privately owned vehicles on official business for the State of Alabama will decrease to 55 cents per mile. The mileage rate, which is paid in lieu of actual expenses for transportation, is in accordance with **Code of Alabama 1975, §36-7-22**, as amended, which became effective October 1, 1999. This code section sets the mileage rate at the amount allowed by the Internal Revenue Code for income tax deductions. Therefore, mileage reimbursement for travel on or after January 1, 2009, will be calculated at the new rate of 55 cents per mile.

When calculating the amount to be reimbursed, all mileage listed on an expense account must be totaled and then multiplied by 55 cents (Example: 111 miles X .55 = \$61.05).

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Kathleen Baxter at (334)242-4857, or Tucker Wilson at (334)242-7057.



According to the State of Alabama Department of Finance, the Travel Mileage Rate will Decrease to 55 cents per mile in January 2009.

AOC Password Changes



Please remember that AOC requires that your password be changed within 180 days from the last time you updated your password. Keep in mind that your computer will have to be restarted after updating your password in order to login to the web-based applications that require your windows password such as AlaCourt and eSearch. If you go thru AOC Outlook Webmail to change your password, please enter **aoc** in front of your username. Otherwise, you will pull an object error.

Please contact your local internet provider if you encounter problems updating the passwords on your personal handheld device. For problems encountered with a state handheld

device, please contact the **PC Help Desk** at 1-866-954-9411 option 1, and then option 1 or 2.

We appreciate, very much, your assistance and cooperation as we continue to make our data more secure.

TECHNOLOGY TIP!

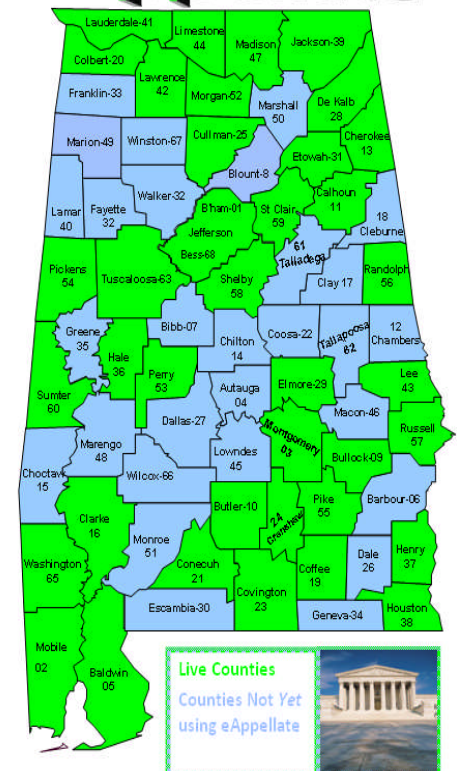
Zoom in on your data in Seconds...

If your mouse has a wheel, you probably use it to scroll up and down through lengthy worksheets. You may not realize that you can also use it to change the zoom percentage for your view in our web based applications such as AlaCourt, eSearch, and eAppellate, etc. This function also works with Microsoft Word and Excel documents.

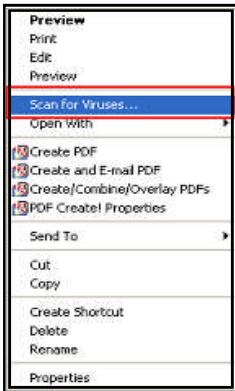


To Zoom in on your data, hold down the [Ctrl] key and move the scroll wheel. Rolling the wheel down decreases the zoom percentage and rolling it up increases the zoom percentage. Note that if you're using Excel 2000, the zoom will only go up to 100 percent.

Have fun zooming!



Best Practice when it comes to Email—Internet Security



We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in taking precautions against opening email attachments from emails you are not expecting and from parties that you do not know. **Best Practice:** DO NOT open any attachments from within your email program (Outlook). Please remember to save attachments to your computer and run a virus scan on that particular attachment **before** opening it. After saving the attachment to your My Documents folder or Desktop, browse to the file and right click on the **un-opened** file. Left click on the 'Scan for Viruses...' option.

In addition to email security we would like your cooperation with Internet Security as well. Have you ever seen a strange security message pop up like an advertisement while you're surfing the web? Have you seen an unexpected balloon message appear from an unknown program on your system, telling you that you're infected with a new threat? These are common tactics used by a type of program called "Misleading Applications" or sometimes referred to as "Rogue AntiSpyware".

Misleading applications intentionally misrepresent the security status of a computer. Misleading applications attempt to convince the user that he or she must remove potentially un-

wanted programs or security risks (usually nonexistent or fake) from the computer. The application will hold the user hostage by refusing to allow him or her to remove or fix the phantom problems until the "required" software is purchased and installed. Misleading applications often look convincing—the programs may look like legitimate security programs and often have corresponding websites with user testimonials, lists of features, etc.

Misleading applications typically strike people when they are surfing the web. There is not a single type of website where these applications are found, but they are more common from sites offering pirated goods and adult content, as well as blogs and forums. They can even sneak into advertisements on legitimate sites, usually through banner ads at the top of Web page. In order to get installed onto a system, a person is usually either tricked into downloading the program (thinking it's something else) or a small program called a "Downloader" is installed by the attacker through an un-patched flaw in the person's web browser. This is often known as a "drive-by" install.

Misleading applications often are not the first unwanted program to land on a person's system. A Downloader, such as Trojan.Zlob or Downloader.MisleadApp, infect the system first and then download the misleading application to the computer. Once the downloaded application is installed and ready, the malware that installed it will inform the user that they are infected with a new, previously unknown threat. This can be done through a "balloon message" that

appears in the lower right-hand side of the system. The misleading application will then present itself and either pretend to download or run a scan of the system. The scan results produced by the misleading application may be entirely false or may include some real issues affecting the system, but will always exaggerate the problems on the system and refuse to fix them until the vendor is paid and a registration key is entered into the program.

Best Practice:



Ensure Popup Blocker is turned on, keep all Microsoft and Antivirus up-to-date on your pc, and never click on the available buttons (Yes, No) on an advertisement. Always click the red X at the upper right corner of the popup window to close the window. Often even clicking on the 'No' button will install the Misleading Application.

Your cooperation & support is greatly appreciated.

List of Misleading Applications:

- Antivirus 2009
- WinFixer
- Ultimate Defender
- SpySheriff
- MalwareWipe
- DriveCleaner
- AVSystemCare
- 1stAntiVirus
- VirusBurst
- SpywareQuake
- AntispywareSoldier

eCitations reaches a milestone in Alabama

eCitation is an electronic citation program currently being used by Alabama law enforcement agencies to include State Troopers, Sheriff's offices and Police Departments. This program allows officers to electronically write, print and transfer traffic citations from their vehicle.

The eCitation ticketing process was piloted in 2003 in Heflin, Alabama, at the trucking weigh station. Phase 1 of the eCitation project was a fixed base location pilot at the weigh station. Phase 2 was a mobile pilot that used cell cards in the officers laptop for connectivity. eCitation is a stand alone application but uses the internet to transmit the tickets. If there is no connectivity, the tickets are stored and transmitted later. This successful pilot was followed by a state-wide rollout to all Motor Carrier State Troopers (MCSAP) in 2007. Sheriff's Offices and Municipalities are now coming on board with eCitations.

This program has been very successful and we are proud to announce that there have been over *1 million* eCitations written in the state of Alabama. Accuracy, efficiency and safety have all improved radically as a result of eCitations.

Taken in part from: http://carp.cs.ua.edu/eCitation_historyofecitation.aspx



Officer Smiley reports that more than **1 million** eCitations have been written in the State of Alabama..



DPS gets New eCitation Enhancements

All Department of Public Safety Officers (State Troopers) will be getting new software, aircards and computer enhancements to include an upgrade to their laptop software (**eCite**) before the end of the year. The clerk's office will benefit from these updates to the Officer's eCitation software. Some of the enhancements that will make things easier on the Clerk's Office are:

- Timestamping of data**
 Now **eCite** will keep up with how long the Officer has kept driver's license scans, LETS lookups, etc. If an officer tries to use any of the data that is older than 15 minutes, it will prompt them that the data is old and require them to re-scan the license. This should alleviate the problem with officers issuing citations with incorrect defendant information.
- Courthouse address fixes easier and faster**
 Now the court appearance address information can be updated immediately upon request to AOC.
- Officers are no longer allowed to pick weekends and holidays for court dates**
 Now the **eCite** application prohibits Officers from setting court dates on State Holidays or weekends.

CHRISTMAS FUN!

